

MASON'S

COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'

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No. 9

ALASKAN RELICS AND CURIOSITIES.

While we were attending the sale of Mackenzie's Collection of Coins, at Clinton Hall, New York, we were invited by Captain E. G. Fast (late Engineer Officer on General Jefferson C. Davis's staff, Sitka), to examine his wonderful collection of relics and curiosities, recently brought from our newly acquired territory of Alaska. In company with another invited guest and friend of the writer, Ex-Governor Caleb Lyons, we visited Captain Fast's apartments at Clinton Hall, and intended writing out a descriptive article in relation to the visit for this journal; but we find the following communication from the *Churchman*, of New York, is a more intelligible account of the collection than we could possibly prepare and with which we fully coincide.—*Ed.*

A splendid contribution to American archæology has been made by Edward G. Fast, Esq., late engineer officer on the staff of Gen. Jeff. C. Davis, at Sitka. Though less than a year on duty at this post, Capt. Fast collected a museum of about two thousand specimens of relics—utensils, ornaments, idols, amulets and articles of clothing found among the Alaskans, many of them important as illustrating their ancient mythology. By conciliating the natives and gaining their confidence, Capt. Fast was able to secure the assistance of a "medicine

man" and several other courageous explorers, who, at no little personal risk, scoured the country, buying up the old charms and amulets, at present little valued, and in many cases digging open graves to obtain curiosities that in ages past have been buried with the dead. The result is a collection that throws in the shade all the other antiquarian cabinets in the country, and will give a new stimulus to the researches of ethnologists, archæologists and philologists everywhere.

Capt. Fast has spread out his museum in a suit of rooms at Clinton Hall, New York, where they are daily visited by the curious. A brief catalogue of the most important articles has been published by Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., which serves as a partial guide to the visitor. The reliques are arranged in ten classes, the first five being the most important. These were chiefly found among the Kaloeches, a people embracing eight or ten different tribes, distributed over the region south of Mount St. Elias. Class first consists of reliques found in ancient graves, among which are two wooden war helmets; twelve masks; ten idols of wood, ten of ivory and bone, four of stone; twelve wooden charms, and fifty in ivory and bone. The charms or amulets are distinguished by a hole through which a string was passed for suspending them around the neck.

Class second embraces imple-

ments of war, hunting and fishing, the most noteworthy of which are the helmets, visors and coats of mail, and the double pointed daggers. With the latter, the warrior could give a plunging or cutting stroke as with a sword, and also a back stroke, without turning round, if pressed at the same time in front and rear. The armor is composed of wooden plates two or three inches wide, resembling the primitive armor of the Saxons and Goths.

Class third is composed of charms and idols used by the medicine men, numbering twenty-five specimens. Class fourth contains ancient dresses embroidered and ornamented, mostly of skin. A few are painted in brilliant colors. It is remarkable that one of the skin coats is covered with old Japanese coins! These may give an important clue to dates. Class fifth includes miscellaneous ornaments, combs, wigs, necklaces of walrus teeth, smoking pipes, horn combs and spoons, and one hundred and forty ivory and stone idols and amulets of the same general character as those in class first.

On entering a museum of American relics, the visitor is always struck with surprise at the great variety of forms. In Roman, Egyptian, Indian or Chinese collections, the images appear to be shaped after a few well-defined patterns, so that we easily recognize them as Thoth, Krishna, Jagannath, Buddh, etc. At first sight, one would say these Alaskan images had been made after no pattern, but according to the taste of individual artists. Closer observation, however, shows us four or five tolerably distinct classes. Very prominent among them we find the frog or fish head, with large round eyes; the alligator head, with its enormous jaws, is

also very common. Several of the carvings in Capt. Fast's collection are almost fac-similes of the great crocodile head at Copan, figured at page 156 of Stephens' Travels in Central America. Such a resemblance shows an undoubted connection, near or remote, between the two mythologies.

A still more noticeable resemblance is that of the Alaskan image of the sun to the same, as painted in the Mexican hieroglyphics. Two wooden disks in this collection are as like as possible to the central sun in the celebrated Mexican stone calendar. In one of these disks the tongue is protruded, as it is in the Mexican, and also in the central figure of the Palenque tablet, which Mr. Stephens has inserted in the frontispiece of his work. What confirms the impression that these northern disks represent the sun, is that they have thirteen smaller circles or moons surrounding the idol's face. This agrees with the divisions of the year among the Tahitians, of whom Humboldt, quoting the journal of a missionary, writes:

"The inhabitants of Otaheite divide the year not into twelve, but into thirteen months or moons, to which they give the name of *suns of the Sun*."

There are in Capt. Fast's collection several other images of the same deity, engraved on walrus ivory, so that we may as certainly affirm sun worship of the ancient Alaskans as of the Mexicans, Peruvians or the Indian tribes formerly inhabiting Wisconsin. A full description of the mode of sacrificing to the sun at the great pentagonal altar northeast of Prairie du Chien in Wisconsin, is happily preserved in the "Traditions of Dekoodah," page 89.

(To be continued.)

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(Continued.)

On the 3d of December, 1777, Congress recommended to the legislative authorities of the respective States to enact laws requiring persons possessed of bills of credit struck under the sanction and authority of the King of Great Britain, forthwith to deliver the same to be exchanged for Continental Money, and those which shall not be so delivered in shall thenceforth become utterly irredeemable. Again, they "*Resolved* (in 1777), That the Continental Money ought to be supported at the full value expressed in the respective bills by the people of these States, who stand bound to redeem the same according to the like value, and to guard against the pernicious artifices of the enemies of liberty, who impair the credit of said bills by raising the nominal value of gold and silver." It was further "*Resolved*, That all bills of credit emitted by Congress ought to pass current in all payments, trade and dealings in these States, and be deemed in value equal to the Spanish dollar; and it is recommended to the Legislatures of these States to pass laws inflicting forfeitures and other penalties on all who do not sell their lands, houses, goods, &c., for Continental Bills at specie value; and that the said Legislatures be requested to enact laws to make the bills of credit issued by Congress a lawful tender in payment of public and private debts, and a refusal thereof an extinguishment of such debts; that debts payable in sterling money be discharged with Continental dollars at four shillings and six pence sterling per dollar (that is to say, at par), and that in discharge of all other debts

and contracts, Continental dollars pass at the rate of a Spanish milled dollar."

Buoyed up by these enactments, Congress sent forth, on the 22d of May, five millions of dollars of various denominations, decorated with new emblems, escutcheons, and secret marks, to prevent counterfeiting. And this emission was followed by another of one million, and on the 7th of November by one million more.

The pernicious legislation just adverted to could result in nothing but the ruin of the confiding patriot, while it enabled the unprincipled debtor to pay his debts at an enormous discount. That result soon became evident, and to a degree so alarming that Congress earnestly besought the States to repeal their iniquitous tender-laws those very laws which had been so pressingly recommended by that body itself, not many months before.

(To be continued.)

GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN NEW YORK.

NOVEMBER, 1867.

(Continued.)

Rosa Americana Penny, 1722, uncirculated; rare.

Rosa Americana Half Penny, 1722; perfectly uncirculated.

Rosa Americana Farthing, 1722; companion piece to the last two, equally fine. \$40 were obtained for the above set of three.

Rosa Americana Half Penny, 1722, "Vtile Dylei;" in splendid condition, scarcely less than proof. \$6 25.

Rosa Americana Half Penny, 1722, with edge engrailed, uncirculated and almost proof. \$15.

Rosa Americana Farthing, 1722: GEORGII DEI GRATIA REX.; reverse. ROSA AMERICANA; fine, scarce. \$2 25.

Rosa Americana Farthing, 1722; GEORGIUS D. G. REX; reverse. ROSA AMERI; uncirculated, almost proof, very rare. \$4.

Rosa Americana Half Penny, 1722, different die from the first described, fine. \$2.25.

Rosa Americana Money, 1723, crowned rose. A set of three pieces, all fine and sharp impressions. The farthing, in this condition, is very rare. \$37.50.

Rosa Americana Penny, 1723; splendid, nearly proof impression; struck on a silvered planchet, or else in a metal composed in part of silver. \$9.

Rosa Americana Half Penny, 1723, crowned rose: very fine indeed, uncirculated. \$3.50.

Rosa Americana Farthing, 1723, on silvered planchet; companion piece to the Penny last described, and quite as fine a piece, rare in any condition. \$8.

Rosa Americana Farthing, 1723, uncrowned rose: *this date, with the rose uncrowned, is exceedingly rare*: uncirculated. \$17.

Rosa Americana Half Penny, 1724, crowned rose, on silvered or silver planchet; nearly proof, without doubt unique. \$28.

Rosa Americana Penny, without date, uncirculated, very rare. \$8.

(To be continued.)

PECULIARITIES OF AMERICAN COINS.

NEW SERIES. NO. 2.

BY E. MASON, JR.

1795 JEFFERSON HEAD CENT.

This United States Cent differs in every respect from either of the other types or varieties of the 1795 Cent. *Obverse*, a small and very delicately outlined head of Liberty, the Cap and Pole (resting over the left shoulder) being a trifle smaller than upon the obverse of any other Liberty Cap Cent.

The profile, neck and lower portion of bust of Liberty are handsomely portrayed; face, neck and breast well exposed, while the fine locks of hair are brushed well back from the forehead, giving the face an intellectual expression. The hair is short, exceedingly fine, slightly waved from beneath the Liberty Cap to lower rear portion of neck. The letters of *Liberty* are handsomely executed, the date small and well separated and well down between bust and edge of coin, in this, as in all other respects, a vast improvement over all other 1795 Cents. A fine dotted milling, extends around the very outer edge of the piece, on either side. The *reverse* presents a rather crowded appearance when the designs are compared with the roomy and well balanced obverse. The wreath is large, the twigs or leaves of which are open, and broadly and irregularly arranged, as if carelessly engraved, and cover nearly a third of the coin's surface. The letters of "United States of America," and "One Cent" are depressed or hollowed out at top and bottom. There are three bows on tie at foot of wreath and two ends, giving a fair representation of a clover leaf. Letters "1-100" rather large.

There are one type and two varieties of the "Jefferson Head" Cent. One variety consists in the letters being formed perfectly straight at top and bottom.

(To be continued.)

CHOICE COINS ON SALE.

Attention is called to the coin sale on September 6, in this city. Among the good things are quite a number of uncirculated cents prior to 1814; an 1804 cent which is not readily excelled, if equaled; some fine half cents; a beautiful assortment of *Colonials*, many of them

fine and very rare; a series of dimes beautiful to gaze upon, the gem of the latter being the very fine 1797 dime, the finest we know of and an unusually rare coin to find in any condition. The collection is not large, but has some choice pieces in almost every series of United States coins or medals, and some very rare store cards, etc. We solicit early notice of bids, as it not unfrequently happens that bids come in too late for the first day's sale. The sale will commence on Monday, September 6, at $3\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. and continue three days. A very neat, new black walnut cabinet, containing twelve drawers, will be sold at close of sale.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GRANT, SHERMAN AND DELANO'S LIKENESSES ON THE REVENUE TOBACCO STAMPS.

The modest old gentleman at the head of the Internal Revenue Bureau has ordered a new series of revenue tobacco stamps, which are to be issued next week. They comprise twelve designs, and the stamps for five pounds are ornamented with the "phiz" of the Commissioner himself, the forty-pound stamps with a vignette of General Sherman, and the sixty-pound stamps with the likeness of President Grant. There is a delicate touch of gratitude in this, as well as a stroke of policy in Delano putting the President's likeness on the stamps, as Grant is believed to be rather susceptible to this kind of flattery. But the worthy Commissioner made a mistake. He should have put Grant's likeness on the cigar boxes, and represented him with a "smoker" in his mouth. As it is now, the President's placid features will scarcely ever be seen, while Delano's "prepossessing countenance" — he should have been represented with a

cigar, too, as he is as inveterate a smoker as Grant—will be handed around in the cigar shops whenever they sell a five-pound package. This species of toadyism and mutual and self admiration is only equaled by that of Clark, formerly Chief of the Printing Bureau of the Treasury Department, who, with equal modesty, had his own likeness engraved on the five cent notes. Congress, next winter, will have something to say, about placing the likenesses of living men on the national currency and revenue stamps.—*Dispatch.*

WOBURN, MASS. Aug. 25, 1869.

MESSRS MASON & Co.:

DEAR SIRS—I cannot refrain from taking the liberty of writing to you, to make a suggestion in connection with the Magazine, and one that would I think add greatly to its value. And that is the want of an index, that information on any particular subject might be readily obtained, without having to look one or more volumes through before finding that which is desired. It seems to me, Messrs. Editors, that you might, at the close of the present volume, print a full and complete table of contents, for the three volumes, on one sheet, in a suitable manner, of course, for binding in the third volume, and in the future devote the last page of each volume to such a table. That you might not be at any expense, I for one would be perfectly willing and glad of the opportunity of paying a fair price for the same, and I doubt not but that every one who takes the Magazine would willingly do the same; for so valuable an acquisition would be worth by far more than what the cost of it would come to. I would not take for my two bound volumes twice the whole cost of them, if I knew I could not obtain others in their place, and an index

would greatly enhance their value. I hope you will think favorably of the subject, for you have time enough between now and the close of the year so to do. Give us an index, and "Let us have peace." Speaking about peace puts me in mind that I wish to know if any one is to get up a medal of any kind to commemorate the Great Peace Festival recently held in Boston. If so, I should like to know particulars if you are not too busy to inform. Yours,

MARCELLUS LITTLEFIELD.

[An answer to the above will be given next month.—ED.]

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 6, 7 and 8, we shall offer at public auction the collection of Capt. Edward P. Thorn, of Plainfield, New Jersey, consisting of a fine series of United States Cents, Half Cents, Colonials. Patterns, silver and copper coins, medals, &c., also a few choice Roman and Grecian silver and copper coins and an assortment of foreign coins, medals and tokens. To be sold, without reserve, at the rooms of Thomas Birch & Son, No. 1110 Chestnut street. Catalogues now ready.

THE LAST CHANCE.

A partner is wanted to unite with us in the coin and stamp business. Choice of New York or Philadelphia for base of operations is given to new partner. To a party having the use of capital—say a few thousand dollars—unusual arrangements will be made, wherein one hundred per cent. can be realized, and a large business permanently established. Address at this office. A party with eight hundred dollars can have entire control of Philadelphia Coin Depot.

VARIETIES OF THE 1839 CENT.

We have received the following lucid and satisfactory explanation of a variety of 1839 cent alluded to in the last number. We are greatly indebted to our valued correspondent, "\$," for his careful examination of the coin, and feel confident that the variety is correctly described.—ED.

WHAT IS IT?

The writer desires to acknowledge the receipt of the coin that originated the question in the last number of the Magazine, "What is it," kindly presented by the editor. It is a cent of the year 1839, made from altered die of 1838. Truly it is readily distinguishable from each of the issues of 1829 and 1830. I have found the cent of 1838, having small figures rather widely separated from each other, made by the die previously to the alteration being made. The reverse of the coin is manifestly, I think, the work of the die of the Silly Head variety of 1839, having the line under the word cent, but without the Mint mark. See my article on the varieties of the cent of 1839, published in last year's Magazine. This, I confess, is a new wrinkle for me. \$.

NEW MEDAL.

Charles K. Warner, of this city, has just issued a few proof copies of the new Geary Medal, in white metal. Obverse, bust with inscription, "For Governor, Major General J. W. Geary, 1869." Reverse, a large star surrounded by thirteen smaller stars; motto, "I vote as I fight," size, 30. As special agents for Warner's medals, we solicit orders for all the old or new medals that have been issued from his establishment. The Geary Medal mailed on receipt of 25 cents Mason & Co.

WILLIAM MULREADY, R. A.
BY J. C. WILSON.

The celebrated painter, William Mulready, was born in Ennis, Co. Clare, on April 1, 1786. When about five years old, he was taken to London with his father (a leather breeches maker) and family. His early skill in drawing soon attracted attention, and he became, in consequence, the pupil and protege of Banks, the sculptor, who qualified him for admission into the school of the Royal Academy, in 1800.

He lived for a time by designing book illustrations, and by scene painting. In 1804, he was married to a sister of the painter and astrologer Varley, but the union was unhappy, and a separation took place after a few years.

He first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1804, was chosen A. R. A. in 1815, and in less than a year after, R. A.

When the scheme of the postal service was matured, and the emission of a postal envelope decided on, recourse was had to Mulready for its design, and he produced that peculiar combination of allegories, which, among philatelists, at least, has always borne his name. Whether the design was strictly his own conception or was "done to order" we know not, but should be inclined to think the latter was really the case. On the whole it certainly did not add much to his fame, and caricaturists were not slow to seize upon its (unintentionally) humorous features. If it were the expectation of the government that the design would be difficult to reproduce, that expectation was certainly not fulfilled, for the frontispiece to *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine* proves that a respectable copy is not difficult to make. By the side of the stamped envelopes and finely-engraved adhesives of the

present day, it has an almost mediæval appearance; and indeed its singular, and we may say primitive style, renders it a very appropriate occupant for the first page of our albums. It was engraved in relief on brass with the utmost care and delicacy, by Thompson, who devoted the labor of twelve entire weeks to its execution. The envelopes and covers were printed from casts stereotyped, and on Dickinson's paper.—*S. C. Magazine, Eng.*

(To be continued.)

HIGH PRICED COINS.

In our last number we solicited an expression of opinion in relation to the above subject, and take pleasure in presenting two communications showing the opposite side of the question :

GENTLEMEN:—In your August number of magazine you refer to the great fictitious value certain coins have commanded in public coin sales. It is rather strange that you overlook the fact that certain coins and medals of known scarcity are constantly increasing in value. A reference to the sales of the past ten years will prove the truth of this assertion. The fact is that the demand for rare coins is always greater than the supply.

Yours, truly,

AMATEUR.

PHILA., Aug., 1869.

ALBANY, August 20, 1869.

GENTS:—It seems to me you have erred in your statement that coins are getting to be too high priced for the state of the market. It is true some of us poor collectors cannot pay the steep prices many of our American coins fetch at coin sales; but there are collectors always able and willing to pay high prices for pieces to complete their collections.

Yours, &c.,

A. L. G.

FOR SALE,

A PRIVATE COLLECTION OF COLONIAL
AND CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY,

Embracing a complete set of Continental Issue from May 10, 1775, to January 14, 1779.

Also, a set of Colonial Issues, embracing Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and a collection containing over two hundred different Bills and Notes of Red Bank, United States Lottery Ticket, New Jersey Bills of Credit, genuine Confederate, original Bank Notes, Store Card Notes, Stamp Tax, one Tea Scheme (this was posted up in the old Coffee House of Philadelphia), Catalogue of New Jersey Bills of Credit, Catalogue of Autographs and Continental Paper Money and a review of the article on Continental Paper Money, two pages.

For this entire collection, the owner requires three hundred dollars. Address Mason & Co., 50 North Tenth street, for full details.

THE WIDOW'S MITE.

In the cabinet of the United States Mint, in this city, may be seen a very ancient and diminutive object labelled "The Widow's Mite." It is inclosed, with other Jewish coins, in a small case near the entrance; and the printed slip attached, which gives it its name, states that it was found in the ruins of Jerusalem. It is the smallest of copper coins, its metallic value being scarcely one-tenth of a cent. Yet, from the associations connected with its name, as well as from its rareness, it is valued beyond price, or, as the attendant says, "No money would buy it." The lover of antiquity should not fail to see it on visiting the Mint.

ERRATA.

Our patrons who have received Catalogues of Coin Sale, to come off September 6, 7 and 8, in this city, will please correct the following numbers, which in haste of print were erroneously described:

Nos. 32, 33 and 34 should be *Mitad* instead of *Trinidad*.

No. 60. This piece (a very rare card) *Omnibus Unus*, g. o. f., is a Masonic card.

No. 198, 1793 *Cent*, in place of 1795.

No. 381, struck in nickel.

No. 430, 1-000 variety.

Nos. 806 to 845, inclusive, bronze medals; all finest proofs.

No. 896, 1793 *Cent*.

No. 939 should be 1791 Washington Cent; *small eagle* proof.

We hope these corrections will reach our readers in time to send in bids. Those of our Canadian or extreme western subscribers can send their bids by telegraph.

NEW WASHINGTON MEDAL.

Charles K. Warner will shortly issue a beautiful Washington medal, dies by Key. This medal will be struck expressly for collectors in sets of silver, bronze and white metal. As agents for the new medal, we shall send circulars to all our subscribers, with details of size, price, &c. A very few sets will be struck, and those wishing to obtain them will oblige by handing in their names to Mason & Co.

POSTAL CONVENTION.

A postal convention, establishing and regulating a reciprocal exchange of correspondence between the United States and the colony of British Honduras, has been concluded with Great Britain, and will be carried into operation October 1, 1869. The rate of postage is twelve cents per half ounce.

WILDEY ODD FELLOWS' MEDAL.

A few copies of the above medal (issued by Warner Brothers, April 26, 1869, in white metal) will be struck in bronze, proof condition, for collectors. All orders must be addressed to Mason & Co., Agents, No. 50 North Tenth street, Philadelphia.

N. B. As the number of medals is limited, early application should be made. Price, \$1.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

S. T., NEW YORK.—Some half a dozen sales here, or we would move over by October 1. Sent you the \$10 1804 cent; also the manual.

R. P. W., BOSTON.—There is a silver Washington Dollar in this State, for sale. Price, \$500. We can get it for you. Shall charge ten per cent. commission.

A. A., WILMINGTON.—You will find some splendid coins in our "Fourth Philadelphia sale." Have sent you a catalogue.

P. R. V., JR., NORFOLK.—It is a brass French token, worth twenty-five cents. This piece always has the word "Unity" instead of *United*, on reverse.

J. W., GREENWICH, N. Y.—Subscription received. Thanks for your patronage. Send your bids in early for coin sale on the 6th inst.

L. W. R., CHICAGO.—Three days' sale of coins in this city, 6th, 7th and 8th inst. There are some excessively rare pattern pieces, and some very fine cents.

J. H. S.—We have not heard anything of a five cent stamp of the new series of United States Postage.

J. F. C.—The Reunion and Austrian Mercury are forgeries. You should have known so by the price they were offered.

C. S. J.—There were two editions of the German Envelopes, the first with the inscription in lilac; the second with the inscription the same color as the stamp. The Wurtemburg Envelopes on white paper are quite scarce.

F. L.—The stamps of Cashmere are a genuine issue. We can supply you with some of the values.

E. V. A.—The fact of your 12 ore Sweden being unperfected does not detract from its genuineness. We have one in our own collection that has a broad margin, with no sign of perforation. The Turkish fiscal label is a counterfeit.

PHILATELIC DEPARTMENT.

PHILATELISM AS A FINE ART.

BY C. F.

(Continued.)

The thought of calling in the powers of art as an auxiliary to the civilising agency of the postage stamp was exceedingly felicitous. Such an opportunity of distributing models of beauty over the face of the globe, and among all classes of people, had never previously occurred in the history of the race. To New York is due the honor of having engraved the most beautifully executed stamp in the world—namely, the Nova Scotia twelve-and-a-half cent stamp, known as the "Queen of Postage Stamps." Among stamps in general, a few of the designs, by way of illustration, are not unworthy of mention. The Chili stamp, for instance, has a profile of Columbus, and is inscribed "Colon;" Peru presents a mountain view, with two lamas; Egypt is garnished with geometric figures, bearing an Arabic inscription—also with a sphinx and pyramid. Western Australia is emblemised in a swan, and Tasmania (old) in a view

of Sidney; Costa Rica paints two oceans, divided by mountains; San Salvador, a volcano; Nicaragua, a mountain landscape; and Liberia possesses three large colored stamps, red, blue and green—but no black! Nevis, in the West Indies, illustrates Hygeia giving water to an invalid from a healing well, and the Virgin Isles rejoice in a draped female figure surrounded by lighted lamps. British Guiana is a ship in full sail, and Uruguay a sun in glory. Cape of Good Hope shadows forth itself in a figure of Hope, seated between a vine branch and a ram, and New Brunswick is symbolised by a locomotive and a steamboat. A codfish, a seal, a crown and stars, a shamrock, rose and thistle indicate Newfoundland. Vancouver's Island finds expression in a large capital V, embellished with the same floral trio. Canada sets up a beaver; Barbadoes and Trinidad find consolation in the well-worn figure of Britannia. France (1849) impressed upon postage stamps a profile of Liberty, the only way in which liberty ever is seen in France; Russia finds a post-official mouthpieced in the imperial arms and some post horns. Turkey, upon one of its stamps, bears a fac-simile of the Sultan's sign-manual, and upon another a crescent, moon and star, the Greek and Mohamedan religions forbidding portraits of rulers to be engraved. Mexican stamps are fortunately scarce, since they are most abominably executed. Among the latest stamps issued are those of New Caledonia; the Orange States, in Africa; Strait's Settlements in China; and the Isthmus of Suez. The design on the latter is a vessel under steam passing through the great canal. The likenesses of only four of our presidents are commemorated upon the federal stamps.

Those four are Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln. Our earlier issues bore the portrait of Franklin, our first postmaster general.

(*To be continued.*)

NEW ISSUES.

CANADA

Is shortly to have a new set of stamps. Taking lessons in economy from our own country, it seems they are about altering their stamps to make them smaller, so as to save paper. The head will still remain exactly the same as now, but the frame and margin around the head will be considerably less. We cannot see how this can be done without spoiling the beauty of the stamp. As to whether they are to retain the same color, we are unable to say.—(*American Journal of Philately.*)

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The provisional series are now in use. They are of the following values and colors:

5 cents,	orange red.
10 do	pink.
25 do	yellow.
50 do	lilac.
1 dollar,	green.

DENMARK.

The letter S, following the figure of value, has been suppressed on the 2 skilling envelope.

LA GUIRA.

There has appeared what purports to be a genuine stamp from LA GUIRA. The stamp is rectangular, printed in carmine on white unwatermarked paper and perforated. In the body of the label is a steamboat, with the value DOS REALES in a scroll above, the initials of the firm issuing it, and CURACAO below. On the left is LA GUIRA; on the right, PORTO CABELLO; PAQUETTE above and SAN THOMAS below. The figure 2 in each angle.

REVIEW OF THE NEW U. S. POSTAGE STAMPS.

(Concluded.)

15 CENT STAMP.

This stamp commences the series of the larger denominations by an improvement in size, though so slight as scarcely to be noticed by the casual observer. Now, for a change, thought our worthy Post Office Department, and *presto*, appears a little semi-oval, quarto-octagonal blue picture of Columbus discovering America, it should be, *Landing in America*. We take pleasure in giving the subject of diminutive engraving for the benefit of our foreign cousins, who will be sadly perplexed to find date or name over or under the narrow little but excellently engraved picture. We think the interesting event pictured out on the 15 cent stamps occurred about 1492. The view of Columbus and his adherents is in the centre of an elaborately engraved brown frame. Either the stamp is two small for the picture, or the latter too large for the stamp. As a postage stamp we consider the 15 cent article a failure; as a pretty picture for an illuminated A B C book, a decided success.

24 CENT STAMP.

This stamp is open to same objections as the last, excepting in one respect, the date under the representation of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, which occupies the centre of the stamp. The picture should have been named directly over or beneath it. It is true, the date 1776 is there, but what does that signify? Strangers, especially foreigners, would stare at the group of stately looking Quakers, and wonder whether they were enjoying a peep of Congress or gazing into the President's House at Washington. The color of the picture is either a purple, lilac or brown, we

cannot well designate which, and the octagonal view of the "Signing of the Declaration" is surrounded by a highly ornamented green frame, lettered and figured appropriately.

30 CENT STAMP.

This, like the ten cent stamp in design, has the inevitable eagle and shield, with the usual admixture of stars and flags found on many of our national emblems. The eagle mounted on a shield, printed in vermillion, occupies the centre of stamp, while upon either side depend two of our national flags printed in blue. A semi-circle, composed of thirteen stars in white, ornament the blue background, thus blending the red, white and blue very neatly and harmoniously. A large "30" is printed on lower portion of shield, while the addition of "Thirty Cents" in a waved line across lower end of stamp, fully sets forth its value as a letter carrier.

90 CENT STAMP.

A very correct portrait of the late President Lincoln, in oval frame, occupies the centre of this stamp; although the beauty of the picture is greatly marred by the harrow-like cross bars imprinted on the back, and it is harrowing to one's feelings to see all that we hold dear to our patriotic hearts compelled to gaze through the *prison bars* so unfeelingly impressed upon the centre of all our pretty little postage stamps. No wonder such action on Uncle Sam's part has raised our ire and our backs, and that's not all—it has raised even the backs of the stamps. Lincoln is printed in black, very appropriate, and surrounded by a handsomely labeled carmine frame, with value *in figures* at upper corners and *in letters* at lower corners. This is a very neatly arranged stamp and concludes the series.

DEALERS IN BOGUS STAMPS.

E. W. W. & Co., Boston, Mass.
 S. A. T. do
 E. T. & Co., do
 C. A. L., do
 W. H. & Co., do
 W. B. T. West Chester, Pa.

Ver. and N. Y.	good.	1 75
Const., 2 var.	good.	1 00
Louisiana R. F.	good.	1 00
Rosa Amer. penny, fair.		2 00
do do good.		3 50
do halfpenny, fair.		1 00
do do good.		2 00
Washington, 1783, good.		50
do 1791, poor.		3 50
do 1791, good.		5 00

COINS FOR SALE.

U. S. CENTS.

Date.	Condition.	Price.
1793	very poor	\$.50
1793	very fair	1 50
1793	very good	3 00
1794, '95 '96	good	1 50
1794, '95 '96	extra good.	2 50
1797, '98	very good.	.50
1799	very poor.	2 00
1799	very fair.	5 00
1799	very good.	10 00
1800, '1, '2 '3	very good.	1 25
1804	fair.	1 50
1804	very fair.	2 50
1804	good.	5 00
1805, '06 '07	poor.	.25
1805, '06 '07	fair.	.50
1805, '06 '07	good.	1 50
1808	fair.	.25
1808	good.	.50
1809	poor.	.50
1809	good.	1 50
1810, '11 '12	poor.	.25
1810, '11 '12	very good.	1 00
1813,	good.	.50
1817, '20	very good.	.40
1821, '24	good.	.30
1825, '30	very good.	.30
1857	very good.	.15

(All other dates, 1831 to 1856 inclusive, 5 cents each. Special terms by letter for finer cents).

U. S. HALF CENTS.

Date.	Condition.	Price.
1793	poor.	1 50
1793	good.	3 00
1794, '95	good.	1 50
1794, '95	good.	1 00
1797, 1800	fair.	.50
1803, '4, '5, '6, '7,	very good.	.50
1808, '09, '10,	very good.	.50
1825, '29	very good.	.25
1832, '35	very good.	.25
1849, '51	very good.	.15
1853, '57	very good.	.50
No. 28 to 39,		3 00
1802, '11	very fair.	3 00

COLONIALS.

Conn. and N. J.	good.	.25
Vir. and Mass.	good.	1 00

PATTERNS.

1856 Nickel,	good.	1 50
do	very fine.	1 75
do	proof.	2 50
Indian Head, 1858,	nickel, good.	1 25
do	do proof.	1 50
Flying Eagle, 1855,	fine.	1 25
1854 no stars cent,	fine.	1 75
1836 silver dollar,	ex. good.	5 00
1863 2 cent piece,	proof.	3 00
do	proof.	3 00

FOREIGN COINS.

12 different,	very good.	50
15 do	very good.	1 00
10 do	extra fine.	1 50
5 Roman coins,	good.	1 00
25 silver coins.		5 00

STORE CARDS.

10 cards,	good.	35
10 cards,	fine.	50

All the above sent by mail. Prices furnished and rare coins obtained, in any condition, upon application. Lists corrected monthly.

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